Siphoning off of NREGS funds

*266. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Government investigation into the working of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) has revealed siphoning off of a whopping 40 per cent of this allocation and inadequate implementation in the districts where it is needed most;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the directions given by Centre to States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) and (b) The information is being collected.

(c) With a view to check the occurrence of such instances, the Ministry has taken the following steps:

(i) Orders dated 7.9.2009 have been issued directing all State Governments for setting up of the office of Ombudsman at district level for redressal of grievances in a time bound manner.

(ii) A Web enabled Management Information System (MIS) (www.nrega.nic.in) has been made operational which places all critical parameters such as job cards, muster rolls, wage payments, number of days of employment provided and works under execution online for monitoring and easy public access for information.

(iii) Wage disbursement to NREGA workers through Banks/Post Office accounts has been made mandatory to ensure proper disbursement of wages to NREGA workers.

(iv) The Ministry has accorded utmost importance to the organization of Social Audits by the Gram Panchayats and issued instructions to the States to make necessary arrangements for the purpose. Modifications have been made in para 13 of Schedule-I of the Act to provide for procedures on conducting social audits. The Ministry has issued instructions to the State Governments for enforcement of the new social audit provisions under NREGA.

(v) Independent Monitoring by eminent citizens has been approved.

(vi) District level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up for monitoring of rural development programmes including NREGA.

Upgradation of Waterways

*271. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of waterways in the country;

(b) when they were made national waterways; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to upgrade the national waterways to the international standard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) There are 14500 km of navigable inland waterways in the country of which five stretches have been declared as National Waterways. The year of declaration of each stretch as National Waterway is given below:

(i) **National Waterway-1**: Allahabad-Haldia stretch of the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river (1620 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1986.

(ii) **National Waterway-2**: Sadiya-Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river (891 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1988.

(iii) **National Waterway-3**: Kollam-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal and Champakara and Udyogmandal canals (205 km). Declared as National Waterway in 1993.

(iv) **National Waterway-4**: Kakinada-Pudducherry stretch of canals and Kaluvelly tank, Bhadrachalam-Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari and Wazirabad-Vijayawada stretch of river Krishna (1095 km). Declared as National Waterway in 2008.

(v) **National Waterway-5**: Talcher-Dhamra stretch of rivers, Geonkhali-Charbatia stretch of East Coast Canal, Charbatia-Dhamra stretch of Matai river and Mahanadi delta rivers (620 km). Declared as National Waterway in 2008.

(c) The National Waterways in our country are developed keeping in view the terrain, silting pattern, topography and regional transportation needs etc. The first three National Waterways *i.e.* National Waterways-1, 2 and 3 are being developed as per the projected requirement of shipping and navigation by providing basic inland transport infrastructural facilities including navigational channel with targeted depth and width for most part of the year, aids for day and night navigation and terminals at selected locations for berthing and loading/unloading of vessels. For National Waterway-4 and 5, declared as National Waterways in November 2008, proposals for development of these Waterways have been initiated.

Target under PMGSY

†*275. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the length of roads constructed *vis-a-vis* target for the same under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) during the last three years;

(b) the agencies which have been entrusted with the responsibility of construction of roads under this scheme and the officers who are responsible for the quality of roads;

(c) whether Government has received complaints of reconstruction of already constructed roads at some places under PMGSY;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.